



Mothers' Union revamp safety guidelines to protect children from commercialisation

Mothers' Union have launched an updated version of its Labelled for Life resource - designed to help parents respond to the rise in

sexting, online advertising and commercialisation of children and young people.

Labelled for Life: Managing the Commercial World as a Family, builds upon the MU's successful Bye Buy Childhood campaign and addresses the proliferation of online advertising, user generated content and includes updates to marketing and media regulations that have been made following recent policy changes. Labelled for Life offers a practical and accessible guide to parents and carers to help them understand and ensure the safety of their children amid the latest developments in technology.

Speaking at the launch, Fiona Bruce, Conservative MP for Congleton, will highlight how half of parents in the UK do not feel equipped to deal with the commercial world, with over a third feeling they have little or no control over the content their children are viewing on mobile phones and social networking sites. She says, "We have all benefited from advances in technology in this generation but parents often feel ill equipped to ensure their children can engage with this new world in safety.

Labelled for Live provides a starting point for both parents and carers to begin that conversation”.

As well as advice to combat online commercialisation, Labelled for Life also provides practical tips for parents and carers on talking to children about money and budgeting, peer pressure and bullying, sex and healthy relationships, and where to go for further advice in the event of serious complaints or criminal activity.

Labelled for Life works on the basis that while the commercial world is now part of life, rather than shield children from it, they need to be equipped to manage it and engage with it safely and securely. Labelled for Life recommends that parents spend responsibly, put in place sensible safeguards and manage children’s expectations around what they can consume.

Rachel Aston, Social Policy Manager at Mothers’ Union, and author of the guide, said; “Our intention is that children won’t feel that their value and identity is tied up with big brands, what they look like or what they own; but instead that they

understand and feel secure in their own inherent value.”

To view more information and resources to help combat the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood please visit www.mothersunion.org/childhood.

Enniskillen cathedral concert for hospice

The First Minister, the Rt. Hon. Arlene Foster has asked St Macartin’s Cathedral to present a concert in the this Christmas in aid of the Hospice on Sunday 11th December at 4.00pm.

It will have a number of excerpts/highlights from The Messiah, along with a few ‘lighter’ pieces of music.

Jonathan Ireland will direct Concentio – a multi award-winning chamber choir that he founded 12 years ago whilst studying Music at Queen’s University. Most of the original members (all Music graduates) are still in the choir, which has grown in numbers over the years, now having 25



young singers, all aged between 18 and 30 years.

Jonathan was a member of the choir in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast and following graduation, was appointed as Director of Music at Stormont Presbyterian Church in Belfast, where he has been for the past 10 years or so. He also directs the choir of the Bar of Northern Ireland & Law Society of Northern Ireland, and sings with a number of groups - including Priory Singers and Voices of Ireland, and a number of other groups in Cambridge and France.

Councillor wants Galway to invite Pope Francis to visit city

There are moves to invite Pope Francis to Galway in 2018. Galway City councillor, Pearce Flannery (FG), has submitted a motion to the City Council for approval to invite the Pontiff to the city during his planned 2018 trip to Ireland.

The Fine Gael councillor for the West Ward wants the council to write to Dr Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, requesting that he formally invite Pope Francis to visit Galway and to celebrate Mass there as did Pope John Paul II in 1979.

Councillor Flannery says it would be wonderful to allow those who attended the Youth Mass in 1979 to bring their families to another Papal Mass in Galway.

Speaking this week to the Galway Advertiser newspaper, Cllr Pearce Flannery said “it is a win-win for everybody concerned, religious and secular alike.” He has asked all councillors and stakeholders to support this proposal and to get behind the initiative so the invitation will have unanimous support once it is issued.

The motion is asking “That the Galway City Council executive write to Dr Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland and request that he formally invite His Holiness Pope Francis to visit Galway during his proposed visit to Ireland in 2018 and celebrate Mass in a similar fashion to his predecessor John Paul II in 1979.”

Speaking to the Galway Advertiser newspaper, Cllr Flannery said: “It is likely that the Pope will come to Ireland in 2018, and if that comes to fruition, I think it is important that Galway is firmly on the agenda. The process needs to be kick-started somewhere and I think as a councillor it is a good idea to issue an invitation.”

He added: “Hopefully if this motion is passed, it will start the ball rolling. I am hopeful that we will get support from a wide range of quarters, both religious and secular. I believe a visit of the Pope to Galway will have the same impact on people as Pope John Paul’s arrival here [in 1979] which is an iconic memory.”

Cllr Flannery hoped that a decision on the motion would be reached soon because of the amount of preparation and detail involved in such an undertaking. “It is imperative that we get Galway

on the itinerary as soon as possible because decisions and plans must be made from a wide range of quarters, not just in Ireland. Issues such as security, logistics, accommodation, all of these things must be taken into account with an event as significant as this.”

LGB&T people support within the Irish Presbyterian Church

Colin Flynn has written - “I’m exploring the possibility of setting up a support network for LGB&T people who wish to see The Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) providing Welcome, Safety and Inclusion.

“Groups such Changing Attitude Ireland and Accepting Sexuality have been working for the inclusion of people in the Church of Ireland and the Irish Methodist Church with considerable success. They also provide a safe space for a wide range of people including LGB&T people, their families and friends, laypeople and clergy to have those conversations surrounding the subject of sexuality and gender diversity which might be difficult in other places. I would envisage something similar for Irish Presbyterians.

“If sufficient interest is shown, I would envisage facilitating a meeting of those who would like to see those three pillars of Welcome, Safety and Inclusion for LGB&T people implanted in the worship and practice of PCI.

“To express an interest, please contact me in confidence by emailing me at lgbtirishpresbyterian@gmail.com I stress the confidentiality of any communications.

“Please feel free to share widely with those who might help to set this up, or feel they need support.”

New Christian-Jewish dialogue project launched at Lambeth Palace

‘In Good Faith’, a new Christian-Jewish dialogue project, was launched at Lambeth Palace on Monday of this week. This is a joint initiative of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations, Ephraim Mirvis. Modelled on their own well rooted friendship, this partnership programme will



The Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis alongside Justin Welby and a number of Christian and Jewish leaders.

ensure Priests and Rabbis based in close geographical proximity will be encouraged to explore mutual concerns and opportunities for shared action together, initially for the next year.

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis explained their vision and hope for the programme and its place within their respective understandings of the role of faith in society.



"It is in the everyday conversations, the grassroots initiatives and the building of local bridges between Christians and Jews, our synagogues and churches, that we will see real change and the hope for a divided world and nation," Welby said.

Archbishop Justin said: "It is in the everyday conversations, the grassroots initiatives and the building of local bridges between Christians and Jews, our synagogues and churches, that we will see real change and the hope for a divided world and nation..... I am so grateful to you for signalling hope when the temptation is to succumb to world-weary cynicism, pessimism, defeatism and even despair."

Chief Rabbi Mirvis said: “The most important part of today is tomorrow. It is what will result as a consequence of our collaboration. Therefore I give this challenge to you: don’t just reflect in the future on what a lovely day this was in Lambeth Palace. The strength . . . of what we are doing . . . is to encourage us all to work together . . . to guarantee that the outstanding relationships that we have at leadership level will trickle down to the grassroots within our communities, so that indeed as faith leaders, we will make a change in this challenging world of ours.

During the day mixed groups of rabbis and priests considered four topics – the challenge of creating and sustaining thriving faith communities, combating religious extremism, the Holy Land and its implications for inter-religious relations, and opportunities to contribute to the common good together.

It is intended that this launch day will be a catalyst for positive dialogue relationships between pairs of priests and rabbis who will continue the day’s conversations on a smaller scale in the weeks and months which follow.

US Episcopal Church responds to presidential election

Members of the US-based Episcopal Church have been responding to last week's presidential election victory by Donald Trump. Following the election there has been an upsurge in violence and hate-crimes directed at ethnic minorities. Church leaders have been keen to damp down tensions and urge the "healing of America."

Among them is Bishop Mariann Budde from the diocese of Washington – based around the US capital city. After listening to Trump's victory speech in which he said that it was "time for the nation to come together," Bishop Budde pledged to "take an active part in the healing of America."

She said: "In faithfulness to God, we will seek the welfare of the cities, towns and communities in which we live. As Americans, we give thanks for the peaceful transfer of political power and we respect it.

"Yet healing from such a bruising campaign is not accomplished with one call to unity. Things have been said in this election that cannot be easily unsaid or forgotten. The president-elect made promises that if fulfilled would be devastating to



St. David's Episcopal Church in Bean Blossom, Indiana, was one of a number vandalised with hate speech. In addition to this swasticka – originally a symbol of good fortune before it was co-opted by the Nazis as an anti-Semitic symbol and later by white nationalists in the United States – the words “Fag Church” and “Heil Trump” were daubed on the church’s exterior walls.

our country. And so we will stand with those with reason to fear for their safety and will defend their place in our society. Nor will we forget the highest ideals of our nation and our call to follow Jesus in the ways of love.”

The provisional bishop of South Carolina, Skip Adams, said that responses to the election result “ranged from joy and delightful surprise to confusion, lamentation and grief.” He urged people “in Christian charity [to] be kind to yourself and one another, especially with those with whom you disagree,” and added: “our baptismal promise to respect the dignity of every human being holds in all circumstances.”

He pointed to the “prayers for our country and president” in the province’s Book of Common Prayer, “where we ask of God that we be saved ‘from violence, discord and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way.’

“Pray for Donald, our President-elect, that he be granted God’s ‘wisdom and strength to know and do God’s will . . . filled with the love of truth and righteousness.’

“As for me, I will continue to work tirelessly for the marginalised of our world. I hope that the election results make us even more resolute in response to this call, for it is in our actions of love and compassion where we will find resurrection hope and bring the love of Jesus to bear.”

In Minnesota, more than 90 clergy signed a joint letter pledging to work “for policies and systems that will bring healing and restoration and relief.”

The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Michael Curry, has not commented directly on the election result. In a video message released the day after the election, but recorded as votes were still being cast, Bishop Curry said that it was part of “the democratic process” that the office holders elected that day would be a mix of Republicans, Democrats and independents.

“That’s how we govern ourselves in our country,” he said, “and we will all live with the results of those elections, but we will all live together as fellow Americans, as citizens.

“And so the time will come, to bind up our wounds, to overcome our differences, to reconcile with each other, to reach out to those who differ with us, and to be Americans: One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. And an America like that will truly be a shining city upon a hill.”

Pupils broadcast Act of Remembrance

Pupils at one church secondary school marked Remembrance Day with a feature on their school radio.



The broadcast team at Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High school, interviewed a reserve soldier from the Royal Welsh Regiment while the two-minute silence was introduced by a school technician who had served in the Falkland Islands conflict.

The feature was produced by Seb Cheer, a Year 13 student who is also the station manager for BOL Radio. It was written by Year 12 student, Sophie Lewis, while the Elena Hajilambi interviewed Mathew Ashment, who serves with the Royal Welsh Regiment, about his experiences of warfare. Graham Ward, the school's IT technician, introduced the silence while the trumpet was played by Sam Rees, another Year 12 student.

Seb said, “Millions of people join together in silence every year. However, it’s sometimes possible to lose sight of why we do it, especially in school – 30 teenagers listening to a teacher stood at the front of the room isn’t exactly a rarity! We wanted to achieve a situation where everyone in the school, students and staff alike, had the chance to think properly about why we stop for two minutes every year, and maybe learn something new about the Act of Remembrance. We wanted to combine music, individual cases, and plenty of time to think. I hope we achieved our aims.”

Assistant Head, the Revd Gareth Rayner Williams, said, “The students put together a really moving Act of Remembrance. It was very poignant as our young people remembered those who have died or who are caught up in conflicts in the present day.” It was streamed through the school through the BOL radio station and is now available on Soundcloud

News briefs

+++ Rector for Templepatrick and Donegore -
The Rev Andrew Ker, currently Diocesan Curate with special responsibility for the United Parish of churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Templepatrick and Donegore, has been appointed as Incumbent of the United Parish of Templepatrick and Donegore. Andrew was previously curate at St Brigid's, Mallusk. The Institution has been arranged for Thursday December 1 at 8pm.

+++ Rector for Ballynure and Ballyeaston -

The Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth, Curate Assistant in the Parish of Jordanstown, has been appointed as Incumbent of the United Parish of Ballynure and Ballyeaston. Jonny was brought up in Lisburn and attended St Paul's Parish and later Lisburn Cathedral. Jonny was among the first intake on the new MTh course at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. He was ordained a Deacon in September 2011 and did his internship in Holy Trinity Parish, Portrush. He served his first curacy in his home church of St Patrick's, Coleraine, and his second curacy in St Patrick's, Jordanstown. Jonny is married to Alison and they have two sons, Josh aged 12 and Nathan aged 9. He said the family was looking forward to the move to Ballyclare. "I want to thank the Rev Canon Nigel Baylor for his real pastoral care for us during the period after Alison was diagnosed with cancer and her subsequent treatment and recovery, and for the opportunity to

discover gifts during that period,” he said. The date of the Institution has yet be confirmed.

+++ Connor readers commissioned - Two Readers were commissioned by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, at a service held in St Paul’s Parish Church, Lisburn, on Wednesday November 9. They were Janet Hunter from St Paul’s Parish and Adrian Bell from Glenavy Parish. Janet will be serving her placement year in St Paul’s, while Adrian will serve his in Glencairn.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Priest: I would like to meet people who attacked my home

Belfast Telegraph

http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/priest-i-would-like-to-meet-people-who-attacked-my-home-35215893.html?utm_source=ipad_share&utm_medium=ipad_app&utm_campaign=clickbacks

Christian Today/Premier

Reports that GAFCON UK has released a list of clergy known to be in same-sex relationships or

who have officiated or publicly supported gay unions in the Church of England. Articles say it is the first time such a list has been compiled, although the information is already in the public domain, and raises fears it will lead to increased abuse. GAFCON says the list was given as a briefing for conservative bishops around the world to highlight the state of the CofE.

Northern Echo

Report on letter of apology written by Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, to a man who is calling for a retrial after retired Archdeacon Granville Gibson, having been convicted earlier this year on two counts of historic indecent assault, was found not guilty in court regarding a third person. Following Gibson's imprisonment, the Bishop of Durham instigated a review into all circumstances surrounding the case.

Ind/Exp

Further coverage that the BBC is set to diversify its programming with increased multi-faith coverage to better reflect the "role of religion in modern Britain". Director General Tony Hall, Lord Hall of Birkenhead, will invite religious leaders to a round table next year to discuss how the broadcaster can improve on its existing

output. A senior executive will also be appointed to design new programme concepts alongside what is currently delivered, such as *Songs of Praise* and *Thought for the Day*. A BBC source said the broadcaster would not be cutting back on Christian programming, and instead would be considering how it could better represent faith in general.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/bbc-christian-bias-plans-diversify-faith-programming-a7416141.html>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/732113/BBC-Christian-religion-coverage-biased-Muslim-Friday-prayer>

Tel

Reports that the Home Secretary Amber Rudd has authorised the extradition of Lauri Love to the US, where he is accused of computer hacking offences. Responding to the announcement, the Revd Alexander Love, Mr Love's father, told the Press Association, "It was going to happen - it was inevitable - but it's still painful. I cannot begin to express how much sorrow it causes me."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/14/amber-rudd-authorises-extradition-to-us-of-autistic-vicars-son-l/>

Exp

Profile of BBC Breakfast host Dan Walker who reveals how his faith and strong Christian beliefs have guided his successful career.

<http://www.express.co.uk/celebrity-news/732310/BBC-Dan-Walker-Eamonn-Holmes-faith-religion-sundays-career>